

I have all along asserted we shall never improve the speed of our ships without we alter their form, which is decidedly against going ahead. If they would study to make the sails on the fore-mast to keep the ship to the wind, we should not want all that after-sail for that purpose, which impedes going through the water. Our study should be that the prows divide the water, and as it comes aft, should form that resistance at the water-line only, and not as it is at present.

We are going to commission a number of ships, to try their good qualities, but as for sailing, they will never go faster than they have invariably done, from the mal-formation adhered to. A sensible plan has been suggested, that would increase speed without interfering with masts, yards, or sails, but they in their wisdom will not give it a trial, because it will bring into notice a power that will supersede spending so much of the public money, and being a novel idea, it is not attended to.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

NAUTICUS.

London, Dec. 31, 1844.

ESTIMATE FOR WORKS NOT TO BE EXECUTED.

SIR.—The exposure of injustice is a laudable undertaking, but he who attempts to make the exposure should assure himself that his accusation is correct, otherwise he may be inflicting a real injustice upon the party accused, while he is endeavouring to expose a fancied injustice, which, nevertheless, has not been committed. This, Sir, is often exemplified among those numerous (?) mis-statements which so much depreciate the value of your useful paper; and, at page 11 of your last number, there is one from a builder at Dartford, who, shielding himself behind an anonymous signature, asserts a series of falsehoods. He does not venture to name the parties accused, one of whom is my client, residing near Dartford, and the other is myself. The accusation is, that we have, by a particular method, "victimized the builders," and have put them to the expense of making estimates for work not intended to be executed. He states that, "as the sanctity of my office could not be invaded, copies of the drawings and specification were to be furnished, upon each competitor paying down five guineas, and a copy of the quantities for four guineas more." The fact, however, is, that no copies nor any quantities were furnished by me, nor did I receive one shilling from either of the builders, but each competitor employed persons who were sent to my office for that purpose, and who, I assure you, invaded its sanctity much more than was agreeable. Your correspondent makes out, that I received forty-seven guineas from the builders, whereas I received nothing. He further states, that the estimates of the builders exceeded nine, but that was impossible, as no estimate was made by me. The lowest tender was Mr. Kirk's, and was not above what I expected the house would cost, but, to my surprise and disappointment, my client stated, after the tenders had been opened, that it was not prudent for him to spend so much, and, after a few days' consideration, he determined not to build, but to pay Mr. Kirk and myself for the labour and expense which had been incurred, and he thus most honourably sacrificed a certain sum of money rather than run the risk of spending too much. I would now ask your correspondent to point out the injustice, if he can; and would suggest that, on a future occasion, he should sign his statements with his own name, or that he should previously obtain correct information, which, in this case, might have been easily had from the successful competitor, Mr. Kirk.—I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

EDWIN NASH, Architect.

83, Moorgate-street, London.

7th January, 1845.

[We readily give place to Mr. Nash's letter. The statement to which it refers did not mention the names of the parties, and was admitted into our pages as applying to a class of cases. Mr. N. will observe, by our note attached to it, that we had no confidence in its accuracy as applied to the case immediately in question.—Ed.]

ARCHITECT'S COMMISSION.

SIR.—Will you be kind enough to inform an old subscriber what are the usual professional

charges of an architect. As for "general drawings," "working ditto," and "specification," "superintendence," &c., I am aware that the charge, including every thing, is usually 5 per cent. on the outlay, but I wish to know how that is generally divided under the heads given above. Hoping you will oblige me,

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

H. G.

[There is no general rule for such a division. The charge for designing and superintending works is 5 per cent.; but it does not follow that if the various matters included in that charge are done for different persons, or at different times, that the separate charges should amount only to 5 per cent. 24 per cent is an ordinary charge for plans and specifications when the building is not executed. 5 per cent. for designing and superintending does not pay for the time occupied and the responsibility incurred when the amount expended is small, and many architects charge more than this commission when the amount is under £600. An auctioneer is much better paid: he walks through a house full of furniture, jots down what he thinks the value of each item, and charges 5 per cent. on the gross amount.—Ed.]

BRIDGE OVER THE LEA AT HACKNEY.

SIR.—I beg to inclose a notice, just issued, for tenders for building a bridge across the Lea. I should think that the persons about to tender for the same will take care to ascertain that the parties have made up their minds to have the bridge built, or, as in the last case, they may have the pleasure of making out the specifications for the trouble. At all events, they will not have among their victims

Your obedient servant,

A BUILDER.

"To Bridge Builders, Carpenters, and Others."

—Notice is hereby given, that the Board of Surveyors of the Highways of the parish of Hackney have ordered to be built a new wooden foot-bridge, over the River Lea, near Temple Mills, in the Hackney Marshes. A plan of which, and specification of the works to be done, may be seen at the committee room in the parish house, in Church-street, Hackney any day (Sunday excepted) from January the 6th to January the 16th, between the hours of nine and three; and any further information may be had on application to Mr. Samuel Fox, jun., of Morning-lane, Hackney, surveyor. Sealed tenders, endorsed "Tender for Bridge," to be sent into the clerk before Thursday the 16th inst., on which day, at seven o'clock in the evening, the board will meet, at the place aforesaid, to open such tenders, and to contract. The board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest tender. The persons who Tender must attend the board personally, to answer when called for.

"By order of the board,

"CHAS. HORTON PULLEY, Clerk.

"28, Great Winchester-street, and Upper Hinnymorton. January 1st, 1845."

Obituary.

MR. ALFRED BARTHOLOMEW, F.S.A., the late Editor of this Journal, expired, after a severe illness, on the 2nd instant, at his residence in Gray's Inn. We cannot now do more than express our sincere regret, but shall endeavour next week to furnish our readers with some particulars of his life and works.

MR. THOMAS WEBSTER, Professor of Geology in the London University, who died on the 26th of last month, was educated as an architect, and built the theatre and laboratory of the Royal Institution; but ultimately abandoned the profession for philosophical pursuits.

THE NEW FRENCH PROTESTANT CHURCH.

—Last Thursday week the ceremony of laying the first stone of this church, situate in Bloomsbury-street, late Charlotte-street, was performed by the Bishop of London. It is to be built in the Elizabethan style, the front facing Bloomsbury-street. The dimensions are rather confined, being 68 feet 6 inches by 38 feet 7 inches, affording room for about five hundred persons. A gallery is to be erected in the west end. The architect is Mr. Amb. Poynter.

Miscellaneous.

GERMONA' WOOD CARVINGS AT CHATSWORTH.—A visitor, on viewing the suite of rooms of that magnificent mansion, Chatsworth, cannot fail in remarking the excellency of the carvings in wood, which adorn, in many instances, the interior of this truly termed "Palace of the Peak." They consist in representations of dead game, fish, flowers, shells, and trophies, variously composed and distributed, being the efforts of that celebrated artist, G. Gibbons, particularly in the chapel. In the great antechamber are several dead fowl over the chimney, finely executed, and over a closet-door a pen, not distinguishable from a real feather: the latter is considered his chef-d'œuvre. When Gibbons had finished his works in that palace, he presented the Duke of Devonshire with a point cravat, a woodcock, carved in wood, and likewise a model with his own head, all preserved in a glass-case in the gallery. Horace Walpole says, that "There is no instance of a man before Gibbons who gave to wood the loose and airy lightness of flowers, and chained together the various productions of the elements, with a free disorder natural to each species." In the "Family Library," we also find the claims of that artist strongly enforced. All the wood carvings in England fade away before that of Gibbons, at Chatsworth;—the birds seem to live, the foliage to shoot, the flowers to expand, before your eye. The most marvellous work of all is a net of game. You imagine, at the first glance, that the gamekeeper has hung up his day's sport on the wall, and that some of the birds are still in the death flutters. Gibbons' works chiefly are the carvings in St. Paul's choir, the wooden throne at Canterbury, the embellishments at Chatsworth, Petworth, Burleigh, Houghton, Southwick, in Hampshire, where the whole gallery is embroidered in panels, by Gibbons' own hand, and the altar-piece of Trinity College, Oxford. This artist was appointed master carver in wood to George the First, with a salary of eighteenpence a day, which splendid allowance he enjoyed from 1714 to 1721, on the 3rd of August in which year he died.—*Doncaster Gazette*.

PROPOSED NEW CHURCH AT FERRIBY.

A meeting of ratepayers was lately held in the parish church of Ferriby, to consider the propriety of building another church. We understand that Joseph Robinson Pearce, Esq., of Hesale Wood, who was present at the meeting, greatly to his honour, generously stated, that his tenants should not be called on to pay one farthing towards it, as he himself would pay their portion.—*Hull Packet*.

MR. COCKERELL'S LECTURES.—Mr. Cockerell commenced his course on architecture at the Royal Academy, on Thursday night. In the next and following Numbers we shall furnish our readers with a report of them.

HORNSEY DISTRICT.—The death of Mr. Bartholomew has left this district vacant. Seven candidates have already declared themselves, namely, Mr. James Harrison, Mr. E. S. Teulon, Mr. Moon, Mr. Thomas Bird, Mr. Witherden Young, Mr. Herbert Williams, and Mr. John Dent. Some of these gentlemen have not yet passed the examiners, and will not be able to do so in time for this election, as will be seen, on comparing the two following notices:—

A notice has been issued by the Middlesex magistrates, signed "C. H. Ellis, Clerk of the Peace," to the effect, that the court will proceed, on Thursday, the 30th instant, to the election of a surveyor for the district of Hornsey. All candidates must, on or before Friday, the 17th instant, forward to the clerk of the peace a statement, in writing, of his name, residence, age, and qualification, and must also personally appear before the Committee for General Purposes, at 12 precisely, on Saturday, the 13th instant, at the Sessions House, Clerk-enwell.

A notice has been issued by the Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings, "that the examiners will hold their next examination of persons desirous to obtain a certificate of qualification for the office of district surveyor, on Friday, the 24th instant. Persons desirous to be examined must apply on or before the 23rd instant, and their applications must be accompanied by a preliminary statement, according to the course of examination prescribed in the rules for that purpose."